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Council Bluffs Resident Sentenced for Maintaining a Drug Involved Premises

COUNCIL BLUFFS, IA - On November 7, 2013, Justin Ray Smith, a 27 year-old resident of Council Bluffs, Iowa, was sentenced by United States District Court Chief Judge James Gritzner to 60 months in prison for maintaining a drug involved premises, announced United States Attorney Nicholas A. Klinefeldt. Chief Judge Gritzner also ordered Smith to serve a two-year term of supervised release following incarceration.

On February 8, 2013, Smith pled guilty to maintaining a drug involved premises. The charge was the result of an investigation conducted by several law enforcement agencies into the importation and distribution of marijuana by a known drug trafficking group operating in the Council Bluffs, Iowa, and Omaha, Nebraska, area. Marijuana was distributed by the group from May of 2009, through March of 2012. Smith maintained a residence located at 19544 Monument Road, Council Bluffs, Iowa, as a storage location and distribution point for the drug trafficking organization.

Prior to sentencing Justin Smith, Chief Judge James Gritzner sentenced co-defendants as follows:

On March 8, 2013, Christopher Brandt, a 30 year-old resident of Council Bluffs, Iowa, was sentenced to 36 months imprisonment for conspiracy to distribute marijuana.

On April 18, 2013, David L. Lopez, Jr., a 40 year-old resident of Omaha, Nebraska, was sentenced to 48 months in prison for conspiracy to distribute marijuana;

On May 31, 2013, Dennis Smith, a 28 year-old resident of Council Bluffs, Iowa, was sentenced to 84 months in prison for conspiracy to distribute marijuana and money laundering;

On May 31, 2013, Nicholas Barnes, a 26 year-old resident of Council Bluffs, Iowa, was sentenced to 48 months in prison for conspiracy to distribute marijuana; and

On May 31, 2013, Gene Smith, a 29 year-old resident of Council Bluffs, Iowa, was sentenced to 41 months in prison for maintaining a drug involved premises;

The investigation was conducted by the Council Bluffs, Iowa, Police Department, the Southwest Iowa Narcotics Task Force, Omaha, Nebraska, Police Department, the Iowa Division of Narcotics Enforcement, the Pottawattamie County Attorney's Office, the Internal Revenue Service-Criminal Investigation, and the Drug Enforcement Administration. The case was prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Iowa.

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